

# The CASA Brief

A Newsletter for Volunteers, Friends and Supporters of Douglas County CASA

**Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children - SEPTEMBER 2010**

## *Making a Difference: Bar Mitzvah Project Benefits CASA*

### **Ben Novorr Serves Up Valuable Help to CASA Children**

*By Kitty Ware*

Think children can't make a positive difference in our community? Think again.

At the age of twelve, Ben Novorr made CASA of Douglas County the fortunate recipient of his decision to raise money to help a worthy organization in Lawrence. As part of his bar mitzvah project this summer, Ben set up a root beer float stand at the Hy-Vee grocery store on West 6th Street to raise money for CASA. Ben explains, "A bar mitzvah project is doing a mitzvah (good deed) for your community." Ben gives credit to HyVee and its employees, particularly Alison Nye and Danielle Price, who were of great help in the project. Working alongside his parents, Barb and Jeff, and younger brother Jon, Ben raised money to help supply birthday bags and backpacks to children in the foster care system who rely on CASA.



Ben realized that while the birthday bags are great gifts for the CASA children, there was no guarantee each child would have a birthday cake on his or her important day. So he solicited businesses to help fill the birthday bags. He asked and he received. For example, Eileen's Colossal Cookies donated 100 giant cookies for the birthday bags. He was successful in convincing businesses to donate items for the backpacks, too. He also raised more than \$900 in cash donations for CASA.

According to CASA Director Diana Frederick, Ben Novorr has an inspiring combination of intelligence, compassion and charm. "He is not afraid to be a champion for what he believes in, and we are just so fortunate that Ben chose CASA," Diana says. "We consider Ben to be an honorary member of our staff and an amazing volunteer. He touched our hearts."

What inspired Ben to give so generously in this way? Ben explains that his dad told him about CASA and the work it does. "I wanted to help CASA because I realized how much I have, and wanted to give these kids some of the joy that I have," he says. He notes that, "I have volunteered at Pioneer Ridge Retirement home, too."

Ben has several hobbies including, golf, theater and reading. But there is likely to be more volunteer work in his future; he says, "It's very self-fulfilling to volunteer!"

Ben's parents appreciate his efforts and achievements. His father Jeff says, "We are very proud of Ben and the work he has done with CASA. We would like to thank CASA for giving Ben the opportunity to

volunteer his time and believing in his abilities. We are quite sure this isn't the last that CASA has heard of Ben Novorr...once he gets comfortable somewhere, he is usually pretty hard to shake!"

Ben proves that, even at a young age, children can understand and empathize with the plight of children who are struggling with difficult family and emotional issues. The time they spend in foster care and in the court system can be very trying.

Ben's good deeds are certainly appreciated by the adults and children associated with CASA of Douglas County. CASA applauds Ben and his family for their generous help and inspiring spirit of giving!

At right, Ben is pictured at his root beer float stand at HyVee.



## A Dream Come True: Terence Hernandez Crafts a Van Go Bench for CASA



Van Go benches are a coveted sight in Lawrence, brightening offices, businesses and homes with their artistic flair. The staff of Douglas County CASA has long dreamed of adding a Van Go bench to the CASA office, and this dream finally came true thanks to the time and talent of local teen Terence Hernandez and the generosity of the Carmody family. Pictured at left are CASA Director Diana Frederick, Terence Hernandez, and Kay Carmody.

The CASA bench was unveiled at the Benchmark 2010 unveiling ceremony on July 23. Now nestled in the Jean Shepherd Room of the CASA office, the bench is drawing rave reviews and is especially popular with children.

A work of art and heart, the bench depicts the CASA mission with special

meaning and detail. "Terence did an exceptional job," says Diana Frederick. "There are so many wonderful aspects to this creation, but when Terence pointed out 'the red bird who adopted two blue birds,' we all got teary. Terence was a joy to work with, and the bench is a treasure." CASA also extends gratitude to Tom and Kay Carmody and family for their generous gift that made this bench a reality.



**“I broke the cycle of poverty and addiction that was my mother’s legacy. But I didn’t do it alone. My CASA volunteer was my advocate, my champion, my role model and my friend.” - Jessica**



**OUR WISH LIST ...**

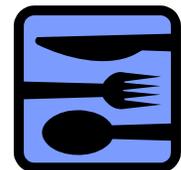
- ☺ Fleece blankets, mittens and hats for children and teens.
- ☺ Jayhawks (stuffed animals) – large and small!
- ☺ Journals and gel pens.
- ☺ Diaper bags
- ☺ Baby powder, baby lotion, rattles & teething rings.
- ☺ Monetary or in-kind donations (e.g., movie and bowling passes) for the **CASA Child/Volunteer Activity Fund**. Special thanks to the generous donor who provided seed money for this important need!
- ☺ Softball, baseball, and adult & child-size ball gloves for playing catch.
- ☺ Snacks for children (fruit snacks, granola bars, animal crackers, frozen treats, etc.)



**Dining out? Don’t forget to use your GiveBack card to benefit Douglas County CASA!** Visit [www.lawrencegiveback.com](http://www.lawrencegiveback.com) for details and a complete list of participating restaurants and merchants.



**Looking for a good excuse to eat out? DINE AT “ON THE BORDER” ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 and 10% OF ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT CASA. And ... mark your calendar to dine at Old Chicago on Wednesday, October 13 when 15% of food and beverage proceeds will benefit CASA. Join CASA staff, board members, volunteers and friends for great food to benefit an important cause!**



# Support

## DOUGLAS COUNTY CASA!!

### Help keep children safe!

Present this flyer during your visit on

**Monday, September 27, 2010**

and 10% of all food & beverage purchases will be  
donated to Douglas County CASA

**Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children**

[www.dccasa.org](http://www.dccasa.org)



Lawrence  
3080 Iowa Street  
Lawrence, KS  
785-830-8291

# The Advocate

A special section for our Douglas County CASA Volunteers

## New Volunteers Eager to Serve CASA Children



We are pleased to welcome 7 new volunteers to Douglas County CASA. These dedicated volunteers completed 30 hours of training in August. Our newest recruits include (pictured from left to right) Sara McElhaney, Jackie Schwartz, Nick Michael, Aurora Barker, Suzanne Wikle, Jason Ash, and Matthew Nygaard.

With more than 20 children waiting for a CASA volunteer, we are eagerly anticipating the final certification of these new volunteers and their assignment to a child in need of care.



**THANK YOU!** Special thanks to CASA volunteers Aurora Barker and Susie Nightingale for answering phones in the CASA office while the staff attended an off-site planning retreat at the end of July.

### Discount Card Donated for CASA Volunteers

A thoughtful CASA supporter recently donated two Lawrence Youth Football discount cards that provide many discounts and “buy one get one free” options at local restaurants. If you would like to use one of these cards for outings with your CASA child, please contact our office at 832-5172 or [casa@douglas-county.com](mailto:casa@douglas-county.com)



## SEPTEMBER 16 IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Staff from the Willow Domestic Violence Center will present a special in-service workshop for CASA volunteers on Thursday evening, September 16, 5:30-7:00 in the CASA office. The program will focus on the effects of domestic violence on children, in addition to general information about domestic violence. 1.5 hours of in-service credit will be awarded for attending. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to the CASA office (832-5172) or Elizabeth Day ([eday@douglas-county.com](mailto:eday@douglas-county.com)).



**Join us for a special volunteer/CASA kids activity in the CASA office on Saturday, October 2, 12:30-3:30 pm.** Refreshments provided. We'll finish painting letters for the Jean Shepherd Room sign and will decorate our CASA miniature golf hole for the Lawrence Public Library's “Caddy Stacks” event on Halloween weekend.

RSVP to Diana at 832-5172 or [dfrederick@douglas-county.com](mailto:dfrederick@douglas-county.com).

## Douglas County CASA, Inc.

**Board of Directors:** Cara Nossaman Anderson, Mary Boatright (*President*), Julia Butler, Shelly Goscha, Beth Kelley, Brad Kemp (*Vice President*), Eve Kemple, Missy Martin (*Past President*), Karen Oberzan (*Secretary*), Lisa Ramler, Ruthi Rapp, Brian Seymour (*Treasurer*), Libby Johnson (*Kappa Alpha Theta*)

**Staff:** Diana Frederick, *Executive Director*; Sherry Catt, *Volunteer Supervisor*; Elizabeth Day, *Volunteer Supervisor*; Carolyn Johnson, *Volunteer Supervisor*; Diane Mosher, *Administrative Assistant*

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### Our Mission:

*CASA strives to ensure that children of Douglas County grow up in safe, permanent and loving homes by advocating for the best interests of children who have been abused or neglected and are under the protection of the Juvenile court.*



**Douglas County CASA, Inc.**  
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